

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended): A method for abating contamination present within a cavity in a structure, comprising the steps of:

exhausting contaminated air in the cavity in a controlled manner through one or more outlet openings in the structure that are in flow communication with the cavity;

returning the previously exhausted air to the cavity in a closed loop process; and

treating a contaminated surface in the cavity in a manner that is substantially non-destructive to the contaminated surface.

46. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the treating step comprises at least one of (a) killing, destroying or removing at least a substantial portion of contaminants present on the contaminated surface, and (b) applying a material to the contaminated surface to limit dispersal of contaminants within the cavity and/or re-contamination of the contaminated surface.

47. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 46, wherein the treating step comprises introducing a biocide into the cavity.

48. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 47, wherein the biocide is introduced into the cavity in at least one of a mist, powder, granule, spray, vapor, foam, fog, gas, and liquid.

49. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the cavity is substantially or completely enclosed by the structure.

50. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 49, wherein the structure is at least one of a permanent, semi-permanent and temporary structure.

51. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 50, wherein at least a portion of the structure substantially or completely enclosing the cavity comprises at least one of a wall, a ceiling or a floor.

52. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the exhausting step limits flow of contaminated air into the ambient environment.

53. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 52, wherein the exhausting step removes at least a portion of the contaminated air from the cavity through said one or more outlet openings.

54. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 53, further comprising the step of removing contaminants from the contaminated air by filtration.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, further the exhausting step comprises the step of establishing a pressure gradient in the cavity.

57. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 56, wherein the pressure gradient is established by at least one of drawing air from within the cavity through said one or more outlet openings and causing movement of air into the cavity through one or more inlet openings provided in the structure in flow communication with the cavity.

58. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 57, wherein a pliable seal is provided to seal the outlet opening to a device for drawing air from the cavity.

59. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein said one or more outlet openings are 0.5 inch to 1.5 inch in diameter.

60. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 57, wherein said one or more inlet openings are 0.25 inch to 1.0 inch in diameter.

61. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 56, wherein the treating step comprises introducing a biocide into the cavity following the establishment of a pressure gradient.

62. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the treating step comprises applying high frequency radio waves that are capable of penetrating into the cavity in

which the contaminants are present, and that are capable of killing or destroying at least a substantial portion of the contaminants.

63. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 62, wherein the high frequency radio waves are of a type capable of heating the contaminants to kill or destroy the contaminants.

64. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 63, wherein the high frequency radio waves comprise microwaves.

65. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the treating step is undertaken in conjunction with the exhausting step.

66. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 47, wherein the biocide comprises an active ingredient that is in at least one of the following categories of materials: (a) oxidizers, (b) surfactants, (c) toxic metal donors, and (d) metabolic toxins.

67. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 66, wherein:
the oxidizers include at least one of bromine, N-bromoacetamide, 3-bromo-1-chloro-5,5-dimethylhydantoin, hydrogen peroxide, hypochlorite bleach solution, iodine, N-bromoacetamide, and ozone;

the surfactants include at least one of lauryl pyridinium chloride, quaternary ammonium salts, quaternary ammonium solutions, higher molecular weight alcohol, and d-limonene;

the toxic metal donors include at least one of borax (sodium tetraborate decahydrate), disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, boric acid, calomel (mercurous chloride), copper hydroxide, copper sulfate, maneb, mancozeb, sulfur, and zineb; and

the metabolic poisons include at least one of benomyl, captan, captafol, cyanides, sulfides, and streptomycin.

68. (Currently amended): The method as in claim 47, wherein the biocide comprises disodium octaborate tetrahydrate as an active ingredient ~~TIM-BOR®~~.

69. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the treating step comprises the step of introducing a lock-down material into the cavity.

70. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 69, wherein the exhausting step comprises the step of establishing a pressure gradient in the cavity facilitating the dispersal of the lock-down material in the cavity.

71. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 69, wherein the lock-down material provides a barrier to contaminants on at least a portion of the surface of the structure enclosing the cavity.

72. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 69, wherein the lock-down material is introduced into the cavity in at least one of a mist, powder, granule, spray, vapor, foam, gas, fog, or liquid.

73. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 69, wherein the lock-down material includes a material within at least one of the following classes of materials: (a) substituted ethylene monomers; and (b) cyanoacrylic based adhesive.

74. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 73, wherein the substituted ethylene monomers include at least one of styrene and butadiene.

75. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 46, wherein the treating step comprises both the killing, destroying or removing step and the applying the material step.

76. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 75, wherein the applying the material step is undertaken in conjunction with the killing, destroying or removing step.

77. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the treating step is undertaken in conjunction with the exhausting step.

78. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 45, wherein the contamination is associated with an undesirable substance.

79. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 78, wherein the contamination is associated with a harmful substance that has harmful health effects on humans and/or other living beings.

80. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 79, wherein the harmful substance includes a harmful organism that is at least one of a saprophytic organism, a parasitic spore-producing organism, and an organism that lacks chlorophyll.

81. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 79, wherein the harmful substance includes at least one of fungus and bacteria.

82. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 81, wherein the fungus includes at least one of mold, mildew, rust, yeast, mushroom, smut, and any mycotoxin, spore, scent, and byproduct produced and/or released by the fungus.

83. (Previously presented): A method for abating contamination of a contaminate surface of an open structure, comprising the steps of:

creating a temporary enclosing structure substantially or completely enclose a cavity, at least one portion of the structure is comprised of the contaminated surface of the open structure; and

abating contamination present within the cavity in accordance with the method as in claim 45.

84. (Previously presented): The method as in claim 83, wherein the creating step comprises the step of providing a hood in conjunction with the open structure to form the enclosing structure.

85 - 93. (Canceled)

94. (New): The method of claim 45, wherein the method further comprising the step of coupling an air suction device exterior of the structure to create a closed loop air flow through the cavity.

95. (New): The method of claim 94, wherein the air suction device is coupled to the structure by external conduits coupling flow input and output of the suction device to the structure to create the closed loop air flow through the cavity, recirculating air evacuated from the cavity back into the cavity.

96. (New): The method of claim 95, wherein the external conduits are coupled to the structure by creating holes in an external surface of the structure, and coupling the external conduits to the holes.

97. (New): The method of claim 96, wherein the structure is an existing closed structure to be abated.

98. (New): The method of claim 97, wherein the external conduits are removed after abatement of contamination.

99. (New) A method for abating contamination present within a cavity in a structure, comprising the steps of:

exhausting contaminated air in the cavity in a controlled manner through one or more outlet openings in the structure that are in flow communication with the cavity; and

treating a contaminated surface in the cavity in a manner that is substantially non-destructive to the contaminated surface, wherein the treating step comprises introducing a lock-down material into the cavity, wherein the lock-down material provides a barrier against penetration of contaminants through the barrier to and from at least a portion of the contaminated surface of the structure enclosing the cavity.

100. (New): The method as in claim 99, wherein the exhausting step comprises the step of establishing a pressure gradient in the cavity facilitating the dispersal of the lock-down material in the cavity.

101. (New): The method as in claim 99, wherein the lock-down material is introduced into the cavity in at least one of a mist, powder, granule, spray, vapor, foam, gas, fog, or liquid.

102. (New): The method as in claim 99, wherein the lock-down material includes a material within at least one of the following classes of materials: (a) substituted ethylene monomers; and (b) cyanoacrylic based adhesive.

103. (New): The method as in claim 102, wherein the substituted ethylene monomers include at least one of styrene and butadiene.